SELECTIONS

FROM THE

VERNACULAR NEWSPAPERS

PUBLISHED IN THE

PUNJAB, NORTH-WESTERN PROVINCES, OUDH, AND CENTRAL PROVINCES,

Received up to 16th January, 1871.

POLITICAL (DOMESTIC).

REFERRING to the formation of learned assemblies, or *Anjumans*, the *Rohilkhund Akhbár* of the 7th January publishes the letter of a correspondent, complaining that although these meetings have become pretty general, and although their formation and objects are to all appearance beneficial to the public, yet the particular advantages gained are not very plain, and it is generally the rule that people who join them merely pay their subscriptions, and take no further interest in their working. The writer also complains that European officers are seldom, if ever, to be seen at these meetings, or, at least, such men as are competent to offer any opinions concerning the people generally, while those whose opinions are of no value become members by paying the subscription. The writer does not mean to assert that all such men are destitute of legal knowledge, or that they are regardless of facts; but he thinks that clever men, who are in the service of Government, might give vent to their opinions at such meetings, and thus confer great benefit upon their fellow-members. But he adds, such men call these meetings "Subscription-houses," and do not care to pay the fees, the result being that their views are not made known. Moreover, he thinks that these assemblies might prove of great advantage to the country generally, if clever men, with a fair knowledge of the agricultural districts, and regard for the public welfare, would join them and lecture; and that such men ought to be

admitted free, while those who subscribe should be eligible to sit on the Committee. He concludes by recommending that half the expenses of these societies be paid from the subscription fund, and the other half by Municipal Committees; and expresses his firm conviction that if his suggestions are carried out, the advantages to Government and the public will be very great.

The *Dhaulpore Gazette*, of the 28th December, under the heading "Bareilly," mentions the receipt of a letter from that station, giving an account of an altercation between an officer and a trooper of Irregular Cavalry, which terminated by the latter shooting the former dead.

POLITICAL (FOREIGN).

The *Lawrence Gazette*, of the 6th January, referring to the report in the *Englishman*, that a Committee was about to be formed in England, by order of Her Majesty the Queen, to enquire into the condition of Hindustan, says that the people of India ought to take this opportunity of laying their grievances before this Committee, in order that they may be remedied: "because it only increases the disorder to hide the real state of the patient from the physician."

The *Khair Khwáh-i-Punjáb*, of the second week of January, in reference to the rumour that the French Settlements in Hindustan are to be sold for a *krore* of rupees, says that the Parsees at Bombay have resolved on purchasing them.

The *Panjábí Akhbár*, of the 7th January, under the heading an "Enigma," publishes the following:—"It often happens that whenever a Native is killed by a European, the Civil Surgeons, after examining the remains, are of opinion that the deceased was in such a weak state of health that he might have died at any time without violence. We are always suspicious when this is the result of an examination, and the questions that naturally arise are, that either the Civil Surgeons' examination of a Native killed by a European is different from their examination of other corpses, or that it is another

instance of European wisdom in abstaining from such crimes; or if they commit them, they, after due thought and reflection, select such poor people whose death by violence, at the hands of a European, can scarcely be called criminal. If there is no reason in these two points, it is plain that the victims are diseased to such an extent as to be easily killed by any angry European. If any gentleman can furnish an explanation of this enigma, the editor will be greatly obliged. The article is signed "A Lover of Justice."

Referring to the stoppage of the Khyber Pass, the editor of the same paper says, that he has received certain information to the effect that the pass is now completely closed, and that, as was formerly the case, robberies are committed there. He adds that only a few days ago a káfilá proceeding to Cabul was attacked by some 800 Khyberees, who took Kázi Mahomed Khan prisoner, but he was subsequently released by 100 of the Amir of Cabul's men, who also obtained possession of the stolen property.

The same paper, alluding to the appointment of a European to arrange the disbursement of pay, &c., at the Moorshedabad Agency, is of opinion that if the Governor-General's Agent would make a report on the subject to the Supreme Government, and recommend the same rules to be observed in similar cases connected with other chiefs in regard to their liabilities, it would be well.

EDUCATIONAL.

The *Koh-i-Núr*, of the 7th January, under the heading "Moradabad," alludes to the remarks of a correspondent of the *Delhi Gazette* at that station, to the effect that Maulaví Syed Shah Alí is exerting himself very much in the cause of Native female education; and that through his exertions a female school has been established, of the success of which the writer entertains great hopes. It is further said that the Maulaví is much respected in the city, and his advice listened to; in proof of which it is said that the Hindus readily agree

to his propositions, and as there is great difference of opinion now-a-days between the Mahomedans and Hindus, the Maulavi would not be so successful if he were not a general favourite. He is said to have founded no less than thirteen schools for females, and a hope is expressed that Government will extend its aid to a man who has for so long a time worked so much good with his own private means.

The *Agra Akhbár*, of the 10th January, under the heading "Judgment," offers some remarks upon the holidays allowed in Government Schools, *viz.*:—1, from the 3rd week of December to the 3rd week of January; and from the last week in May to the last week in June. The writer considers this arrangement, as well as other rules established in the Educational Department, quite correct, and pays a tribute to the judgment of the Director-General for having carried out this measure, which he considers will be the means of obviating much confusion, and prove advantageous to all concerned.

The *Rohilkhund Akhbár*, of the 7th January, alluding to a paragraph in the *Public Opinion*, concerning the success of the students of the Lahore and Delhi Colleges in passing for the Arts Examination, congratulates them, and says that such proofs of advancement have not been shown in any of the Colleges of the North-Western Provinces.

The same paper mentions a meeting at Ghazeepore for the purpose of raising funds to provide a library for the Victoria School, the result being that a sum of Rs. 1,600 was expected to be collected; and it was resolved to provide a good library of English, Urdu, and Sanscrit Works, to be called the "Deo Narain Library," after the late Raja Sir Deo Narain Singh Bahadoor, C.S.I., who was a firm supporter and promoter of education. The Collector of Ghazeepore gave Rs. 100 towards this fund.

MISCELLANEOUS.

The *Matla-i-Núr*, of the 26th December, heads a complaint thus—"Men in power are Supreme,"—and proceeds to say

that Mr. Alone, Judge of the Court of Small Causes at Agra, has arranged the seats for his Native officials in such a manner as to cause great dissatisfaction to them. "But," the writer enquires, "what remedy is there for it? It is most difficult now-a-days to procure a means of livelihood, and respectable men are often constrained to set aside their respectability and endure all kinds of indignities; but they are ever subservient to orders, and the authorities of the day ought to pay some attention to such men."

Most of the papers published in the Panjáb appear with a mourning border, and announce with regret the death of the late Lieutenant-Governor of that Province.

The *Rohilkhund Akhbár*, of the 31st December, under the heading "Dhaulpore," remarks that the dependants of that State have not received their wages for one year, in consequence of which there is considerable trouble and distress among them.

The *Urdú Delhi Gazette*, of the 7th January, mentions that the young Raja of Kuppoorthula is doing his utmost to improve his State, and that although he is acquainted with the English language, he does not neglect his study of it to perfect himself in every way. It is added that Muthra Dass is the Raja's Dewan, and that he is a person of note. Further, that the Raja's example in the attainment of knowledge is being followed by others, and that many people are sending their children to school in the hope that they may become as learned as the Mahárája.

The same paper quotes the *Oudh Akhbár* concerning the tax levied by the Municipal Committee of Allahabad* upon corpses for cremation on the rivers Ganges and Jumna. It is said that the charge is double for those burnt on the Ganges, as the Hindus much prefer that river; but the people being generally poor cannot properly perform their funeral ceremonies in consequence of this tax. It is admitted that the measure is a good one for increasing the Town-duty collections, but

* NOTE.—The original says "Lucknow," apparently by a clerical error.

that it is unfair to the people. The writer considers any tax, whether of Rs. 1-4 or Rs. 2-8, upon the dead very like oppression, and that it is no argument in favour of the tax that Christians have also to pay something, as the cases are widely different. He feels certain that this tax, got up by the Municipality of Allahabad, will be abolished.

A letter appears in the *Panjábí Akhbár*, having for its subject the decadence of the Sanscrit language, and the consequent evil effects this has had upon the religion of the Hindus. The writer urges that for 1,000 years this language, "on which rested the stability of the Hindu religion," has been gradually on the decline, owing to the want of support which it formerly received from the respectable castes, who, partly because they were callous, and partly because they were forced to seek other means of livelihood, were not sufficiently firm in their religious duties, and laid aside their sacred books. But he says, God has created men for the express purpose of keeping people to their religion, and pointing out to them the right road, and there are still some who have exerted themselves in the cause of the "Vedar and Shastras," amongst whom he instances Baboo Hurish Chundra, of Benares, and Pandit Jawala Pershad Sáhib Bahadúr, of Agra, the latter having compiled a work in the Urdu and Sanscrit character, pointing out to the Hindus their religious duties; but the Hindus are such an unfortunate race, that they will not pay any attention to it. Moreover, it is said that many Hindustanees have started new doctrines, differing materially from the Shastras, and leading many away from the true religion, to follow the founder and look upon him as a sort of deity. The writer considers it a great disgrace that men of other countries should concern themselves with the religion of the Hindus, and yet the Hindus themselves be so regardless of it. He goes on to say—"For the last three years a Sanscrit Society has been established in London, and a learned Englishman has been appointed to teach the language; but it requires the co-operation of the leading Hindu Chiefs, who are the

protectors of the Hindus, to keep it going and support it firmly, which is not at present the case. If these Mahárájas would devote a little money to the establishment of schools in their territories, where the Shastras could be taught to the Hindus, at the same time allowing a monthly pittance by way of encouraging them in their studies, no doubt the foundation would still remain to work upon." The writer concludes by pronouncing it a matter of congratulation that the Raja of Jaipore takes an interest in the establishment of such schools, and that the Chirkari Raja, the Rajás of Jamoo, Patiala, and Kupoorthula, have all signified their intention of encouraging the Allahabad University,—the Chirkari Raja having already acted liberally in the encouragement of this good work.

The *Benares Akbhár*, of the 12th January, under the heading "A strange murder," mentions the discovery of the dead bodies of a woman and a gardener in a house near the Police-station, and not far from the Courts. It appears that some person gave notice to the Police that the gardener had not been seen for some days, and that his house was locked. On opening the door the nude body of a woman, with her skull fractured, and otherwise wounded, was found, and in a corner of the hut the maimed body of the gardener. The writer expresses great surprise that such a mysterious occurrence should be discovered close to a Court-house, and enquires whether this is the result of good Police arrangements.

The same paper publishes the following:—"*The Kavi Bachan-Sudha* relates the following dream:—A jemadar went to the Maghurn Ghât, and desired the ghâtwállás to remove all the bathing planks by order of Government. The people did so much to the inconvenience of the public, as it interfered with their poojahs. The same jemadar subsequently, a few days later, returned to the spot, and told the people that, if they would pay him, he would obtain authority to replace the planks; the people complied with his request, and he ordered the planks to be restored. The writer thinks that as God has shown this

dream to be a reality, the Kotwál ought to enquire into it, and make a report upon it. "Of what use are the Police?"

The following Vernacular newspapers have been examined in this report, *viz.*:—

No.	Name of Newspaper.	Where Published.	Date.	Date of Receipt.
				1871.
1	*Málwá Akhbár*, ...	Indour, ...	Decr. 28th, 1870.	Jany. 9th
2	*Urdú Dhaulpore Gazette*,	Dhaulpore, ..	„ 21st	„ 9th
3	*Dabdaba-i-Sikandarí*, ...	Rampore, ..	„ 26th	„ 9th
4	*Mutla-i-Núr*, ...	Cawnpore, ...	„ 26th	„ 9th
5	*Oudh Akhbár*, ...	Lucknow, ...	Jany. 3rd, 1871.	„ 9th
6	*Urdú Márwár Gazette*,	Jodhpore, ...	„ 2nd	„ 10th
7	*Majma-ul-Bahrain*, ...	Ludhiana, ...	„ 5th	„ 10th
8	*Allygurh Institute Gazette*,	Allygurh, ...	„ 6th	„ 10th
9	*Lawrence Gazette*, ...	Meerut, ...	„ 6th	„ 10th
10	*Koh-i-Núr*, ...	Lahore, ...	„ 7th	„ 10th
11	*Rohilkhund Akhbár*, ...	Muradabad, ...	Decr. 31st, 1870.	„ 10th
12	*Urdú Delhi Gazette*, ...	Agra, ...	Jany. 7th, 1871.	„ 10th
13	*Rifáh-i-Khaláiq*, ...	Shahjehanpore,	Decr. 15th, 1870.	„ 11th
14	*Ditto*, ...	Ditto, ...	Jany. 1st, 1871.	„ 11th
15	*Rajpútána Social Science Congress*, ...	Jaipore, ...	„ 6th	„ 11th
16	*Urdu Akhbár*, ...	Delhi, ...	„ 8th	„ 11th
17	*Málwá Akhbár*, ...	Indour, ...	„ 4th	„ 12th
18	*Khair Khwáh-i-Panjáb*,...	Gujaranwalla,...	„ 2nd week.	„ 12th
19	*Panjábí Akhbár*, ...	Lahore, ...	„ 7th	„ 12th
20	*Urdú Benares Gazette*,	Benares, ...	„ 9th	„ 12th
21	*Dabdaba-i-Sikundarí*, ...	Rampore, ...	„ 9th	„ 12th
22	*Kárnámah*, ...	Lucknow, ...	„ 9th	„ 12th
23	*Nasím-i-Jaunpore*, ...	Jaunpore, ...	„ 10th	„ 13th
24	*Shola-i-Túr*, ...	Cawnpore, ...	„ 10th	„ 13th
25	*Naiyir-i-Akhbár*, ...	Bijnour, ...	Decr. 29th, 1870.	„ 14th
26	*Gwalior Gazette*, ...	Gwalior, ...	Jany. 1st, 1871.	Jany. 14th
27	*Naiyir-i-Akhbár*, ...	Bijnour, ...	„ 5th	„ 14th
28	*Agra Akhbár*, ...	Agra, ...	„ 10th	„ 14th
29	*Rohilkhund Akhbár*, ...	Muradabad, ...	„ 7th	„ 14th
30	*Ditto*, ...	Ditto,	Decr. 24th, 1870.	„ 15th
31	*Riyáz-i-Núr-i-Hind*, ...	Ditto,	„ 24th	„ 15th
32	*Urdú Dhaulpore Gazette*,	Dhaulpore, ...	„ 28th	„ 15th
33	*Jahna-i-Túr*, ...	Meerut, ...	Jany. 8th, 1871.	„ 15th
34	*Urdú Muir Gazette*, ...	Ditto,	„ 10th	„ 15th
35	*Lawrence Gazette*, ...	Ditto,	„ 13th	„ 16th
36	*Hindi Dhaulpore Gazette*,	Dhaulpore, ...	Decr. 21st, 1870.	„ 9th
37	*Hindi Márwár Gazette*,	Jodhpore, ...	Jany. 2nd, 1871.	„ 10th
38	*Hindi Benares Akhbár*,	Benares, ...	„ 12th	„ 14th
39	*Hindi Dhaulpore Gazette*,	Dhaulpore, ...	Decr. 28th, 1870.	„ 15th
40	*Hindi Muir Gazette*, ...	Meerut, ...	Jany. 8th, 1871.	„ 15th

ALLAHABAD: } GEORGE WAGENTREIBER,
The 26th January, 1871. } *Govt. Reporter on the Vernacular Press of Upper India.*